

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 02806 111044Z

43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-14 SS-20 SP-03 L-03 SAM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

DRC-01 /099 W

----- 120370

R 111008Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3344

INFO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2806

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOCI, PINT, GR

SUBJ: ARCHBISHOP SERAPHIM/AMBASSADOR TASCA:

OUTLOOK FOR REGIME

1. DURING FRANK CONVERSATION MAY 9 WITH ARCHBISHOP SERAPHIM, AMBASSADOR TASCA OBSERVED GREECE WAS ENTERING CRITICAL PERIOD WHEN FORWARD MOVEMENT WITH BLESSING OF ARMED FORCES IS REQUIRED. WHILE FORM OF GOVERNMENT IS CLEARLY MATTER FOR GREEK PEOPLE TO DECIDE, AMBASSADOR SAID HE FELT CONSTRAINED TO POINT OUT ALTERNATIVE TO EVOLUTION WOULD BE DARK PAGE IN GREEK HISTORY WHICH COULD ONLY BENEFIT OUR ENEMIES. AMBASSADOR OBSERVED PRESENT LACK OF NATIONAL CONSENSUS PRESENTS HAZARDOUS SITUATION. HE NOTED MANY DOUBT WHETHER ARMY CAN REFLECT POPULAR WILL. IN THE ABSENCE OF CONCILIATION AMONG KEY FACTORS IN SOCIETY, SITUATION OF INSTABILITY DEVELOPS.

2. ARCHBISHOP COMMENTED THAT CHANGE MOVING TOWARD POLITICAL NORMALITY WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM WITHIN ARMY BECAUSE OTHERWISE NATION WOULD FIND ITSELF IN THROES OF CIVIL UPHEAVAL. AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT IMPORTANT POINT WHICH HISTORY BEARS OUT IS THAT GOVERNMENTS DO NOT ENDURE WITHOUT POPULAR SUPPORT. ARCHBISHOP CAST DOUBT ON SINCERITY OF FORMER POLITICIANS TO WHICH AMBASSADOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ATHENS 02806 111044Z

REPLIED THAT NATION NEEDS ALL WHO ARE WILLING TO SERVE

IT REGARDLESS OF PAST POLITICAL EXPERIENCE. HE ADDED THAT AMERICANS EXPECT MORE FROM GREEKS, BELIEVEING LATTER DESERVE SPECIAL PLACE IN ANNUALS OF POLITICAL THOUGHT AND IN LIGHT OF NATION'S MANY ACHIEVEMENTSS.

3. AMBASSADOR QUERIED HOW MODERN GREECE COULD BE EXPECTED TO TOLERATE SEVEN YEARS OF MILITARY RULE, MARTIAL LAW, REOPENING OF CONCENTRATION CAMPS AND ARREST OF MEN SUCH AS GEORGE MAVROS, PRESS CENSORSHIP AND ABSENCE OF CIVIL LIBERTIES. AMBASSADOR ADDED THAT GREEK MILITARY WOULD REMAIN FUNDAMENTAL FACTOR IN POLITICAL EVOLUTION; ARMED FORCES HAVE GREATGTRUST AND RESPONSIBILITY WHICH CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO FAIL OR GREECE WOULD FIND ITSELF SLIPPING INTO SELF-DESTRUCTION. AMBASSADOR MADE ADDITIONAL POINT THAT HELLENIC ARMY NOW IN RISKY POSITION OF HAVING TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL ACTIONS, INCLUDING MISTAKES. GREEK PEOPLE WILL COME TO BLAME MILITARY LEADERS FOR LATTER. AMBASSADOR CONCLUDED THAT U.S. IS NOT SEEKING TO INTERVENE BUT ON CONTRARY WISHES TO REMAIN FRIENDLY ALLY CONSISTENT WITH TRADITIONAL RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.
TASCA

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATHENS02806
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740116-0224
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740555/aaaabwxk.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARCHBISHOP SERAPHIM/AMBASSADOR TASCA: OUTLOOK FOR REGIME
TAGS: SOCI, PINT, US, GR, (TASCA, HENRY J), (SERAPHIM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005